

FEB 03 2000

MR. CLOKE: Good morning.

Morning. My name is Don Cloke. I am a member and board member of the Las Vegas Indian Center, also a member of CAB, Community Advisory Board for Clark County and the official tribal contact representative for the Solitary Group of Tribes, an organization representing the Las Vegas Indian Center.

I am an American Indian. My tribal affiliation is Cowlitz, C-o-w-l-i-t-z. I originally lived in the State of Washington for a period of fifty-five years and moved to the wonderful State of Nevada, Southern Nevada, Las Vegas for health reasons, and also I'm a retired federal civil service employee.

And also I have other tribal affiliations with the State of Washington, Oregon and most western United -- western United State tribes.

Since it's not a question/answer period, I'll prefer my questions later when I send more comments in by email.

MR. BROWN: All right.

MR. CLOKE: First of all, I'd like to let the general public know we're in attendance here -- in attendance here today and that I received this copy of the Federal Register Number 10 CFR Parts 960 and 963, which is the primary discussion of today's topic.

On -- on Jan -- January the 27th, year 2000, I received a copy in the mail in regards to C -- 10 CFR Parts 19 et al, which I have studied extensively. I've read this document verbatim.

Evidently it was the wrong one, so here again to prove a point that the Native American Indians throughout the -- over 350 treaties that were signed by the United States, all 350 of them were broken just for a point of interest, and so it's kind of like letting your right hand -- not using what your right hand is doing with your left hand, so to speak.

And this is quite -- working with the federal agencies, I find this is quite common when it comes to working and adjusting to work in substance with the Native American tribes; not only the State of Nevada, but the United States of America.

Tribes of the United States of America, the Indian tribes are very concerned about their health and safety and also of their TCPs, traditional cultural properties. Not only the State of Nevada, but nationwide.

1 [Of the 550 Native American tribes that are registered, federally recognized in the United States, we have deep concerns in regards to the transportation of high-level nuclear waste going through, around and in the area of the reservations.

And we are opposed to any reduction of the dose rate from EPA has suggested 25 millirems and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission wants to set the dose rate at 15 millirems. Per hour, I assume.

As a former employee of -- of the nuclear industry, I'm quite familiar with the millirem dose, the radiation levels and what we're talking about here, and if anyone would like to talk to me later after -- I'm going to be here for about an hour and then I'm going to leave. Anyway, I can talk extensively on the radiation levels and the millirems and so on and so forth.

And also the EPA and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission are -- and the EPA are two separate federal entities. It really behooves me to know how the EPA can understand the rules and regulation and the mechanics and the workings of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and vice versa, how the Nuclear Regulatory Commission can understand the workings and the daily to daily operation of -- of the Environmental -- of EPA.

They're two separate entities. So who's to say one can override the other? This is a very great concern to Native American tribes, as well.

I can remember the treaties that the Cowlitz Tribe that I'm affiliated with in southwest Washington, our -- our tribal chief in 1855 refused to sign any treaty with the Federal Government because they've known from the past history that it's going to be broken one way or the other.

So anyway, I'd like to close stating that -- and I think that this whole issue is leading halfway toward the private -- private nuclear industry, and I'm not saying it's sponsored to change the rules, but the private nuclear industry of their seventy-seven nuclear generating sites are deeply involved in the process that they want to change the dose level from 25 millirems to 15 millirems, and I think it's strictly a political situation.

Thank you.